THE MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT

Newsletter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

VOL. 13, NO. 5 NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1993

DNR REPORTS . . .
by Glenn Therres

Do you know what the number one wildlife related outdoor activity is in Maryland? Sorry, it's not birdwatching. More Marylanders (53%) maintain natural areas around their homes for wildlife than hunt, fish, birdwatch, camp, or hike, according to a recently conducted survey of Marylanders 18 years of age or older.

Early this summer we conducted a telephone survey of 1002 Marylanders chosen at random to find out opinions, attitudes, and participation interests in wildlife related activities, emphasizing wildlife viewing activities. The results we obtained were interesting.

Overall, 93% of Marylanders participate in some kind of outdoor recreation, ranging from maintaining natural areas around the home (53%) to backpacking (6%). Twenty-seven percent of the people said they birdwatched. That translates into over 1 million Marylanders looking at birds. Not all of these folks are die-hard birders, as only a third can identify 25 or more birds.

Birdwatchers (including the generalists) outnumber hunters three to one and are slightly behind the total number of people that fish. Those that can identify 25 or more birds are equal in number to hunters.

We learned that 21% of our public take trips to observe or photograph wildlife, which I am sure includes you. Most of these trips were taken on the Eastern Shore (55%) and around the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan areas (43%). Fifty-two percent of the people took trips to federal lands, such as national wildlife refuges, 34% to state wildlife management areas, 60% to state parks and forests, 46% to locally owned areas such as county parks, and 40% to privately owned lands.

One of our main reasons for conducting this survey is to help with the development of a wildlife viewing program for Maryland. Wildlife viewing, including birdwatching, is a growing recreational pursuit and one we want to be a major part of. Three-quarters (75%) of respondents said they would be interested in seeing or observing wildlife, and of those, 78% said they would consider taking a trip in the next three years for that purpose.

The 1991 national survey of fishing, hunting, and wildlife-associated recreation estimated $118 million dollars were spent by Marylanders in 1991 for wildlife-related recreation other than hunting and fishing. Our survey found that 90% of all trips taken by

(continued on page 2, column 3)

MARYLAND MID-WINTER BIRD COUNTS, 1994

Sunday, January 16

Calvert County — Jim Stasz (North Beach), 410-257-9540 (H), or 301-952-3653 (O).

Saturday, January 22

Carroll County — Bob Ringler (Eldersburg), 410-549-6031 (H), or 410-225-6180 (O).

Prince George's County — Paul Jung (Bowie), 301-262-7531.

Sunday, January 23

Baltimore County — Bob Ringler (Eldersburg), 410-549-6031 (H), or 410-225-6180 (O).

Cecil County — Parke H. John, Jr. (North East), 410-287-6037 (between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.).

Saturday, January 29

Allegany County — Teresa Simons (Cumberland), 301-729-4161 (H), or 301-777-5646 (O).

Harford County — Bill Pfingsten (Bel Air), 410-838-5732.

Sunday, January 30

Montgomery County — Tony Heatwole (Gaithersburg), 301-924-4839.

Saturday, February 5

Garrett County — Fran Pope (Mountain Lake Park), 301-334-4908.

Howard County — Jo Solem (Laurel), 301-725-5037.

Kent County — Jim & Trish Gruber, (Chestertown), 410-778-6851.

The Mid-Winter count series is designed to get a true measure of wintering bird populations in Maryland, since many observers feel that Christmas Counts in this area are often distorted by lingering fall migrants. Similar to May Count, the Mid-Winter counts are done by county and are carried out on a single day sometime during the period January 10 through February 10. Counties in the eastern part of Maryland should generally schedule their counts toward the beginning of this period, while counties in Western Maryland can wait until the latter part of the period. If there is no count scheduled for your locality, consider organizing one. Contact Norm Saunders at 301-989-9035 (Colesville) for thoughts on setting up a count in your county, and for further information on what should be recorded and where the data should be submitted.

THE CHAPTER CHATTERBOX
by Jane Hill

This is the first taste of a new column designed to bring you news from the grassroots — the 15 local chapters of MOS. Look here for announcements about chapter publications, chapter-sponsored extended forays that are open to all MOS members, awards to local chapter members, and other local news that has been — but should NOT be — a well-kept secret from the general MOS membership.

For starters... from the Harford County Chapter comes a report of a new county checklist of birds (identified as nesting, accidental, exotic, etc.), compiled by Bill Pfingsten. You can get a copy of the checklist by sending $.25 and a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Jean Fry, 1202 Ridge Road, Pylesville, MD 21132. Harford County also reports that it is putting together a similar checklist for Cecil County; look for it at the Annual Convention in May 1994, in Cecil County! In addition, work is proceeding on a Harford County birdwatching brochure, which will include descriptions of sites where birds can be found in the county. Look for it, too, at the 1994 Convention.

(continued on page 2, column 3)

Contents

DNR Reports 1
Mid-Winter Count Schedule 1
The Chapter Chatterbox 1
Christmas Bird Count Schedule 2
September Board Meeting Report 3
An Open Letter To MOS Members 4
MOS Sanctuary News 4
Education News & Notes 4
Research Grant Program 4
MD/DC Records Committee Report 5
1994 Conference Update 6
Call For Papers, 1994 Conference 6
Nature Conservancy Volunteer Hunt 6
The Conservation Corner 7
MOS Calendar, Nov.-Jan. 8
MD/DC Records Form ..... Insert
1993 List Report Form ..... Insert

THE MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT
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If you have a change of address or are experiencing difficulties with MOS mailings, contact the Mailing List Coordinator, William Guion, 8007 Martown Road, Laurel, MD 20723, (301) 490-0444.

All other questions regarding the Maryland Ornithological Society should be referred to the Executive Secretary, Will Tress, 203 Gittings Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21212, (410) 433-1058.

For information on advertising rates and deadlines, contact the editor.

Copy deadlines for the January/February 1994 issue are:

January-March Calendar Activities:
December 5, 1993

All Other Submissions:
December 10, 1993

MARYLAND CHRISTMAS COUNTS AND COMPILERS, 1993-94

Saturday, December 18

Allegany County — John Willetts (Frostburg), 301-689-3202.

Catoctin — Mike Welch (Frederick), 301-874-5828.

Denton — Steve Westre (Denton), 410-479-0338.

Elkton — Joel Citron (Wilmington, DE), 302-475-8773.

Jug Bay — Pat Melville (Lothian), 301-627-8376.

Triadelphia Reservoir — Norm Saunders (Colesville), 301-989-9035 (H), or 202-606-5723 (O).

Washington, DC — John Bjerke, compiler. To sign up, call Beth Cranmer at the Audubon Naturalist Society (Chevy Chase), 301-652-5964, ext. 3006.

Sunday, December 19

Lower Kent County — Paul Toulson (Chestertown), 410-778-4123.

Port Tobacco — George Wilmot (Bryans Road), 301-375-8552.

St. Michaels — Carolyn Mills (St. Michaels), 410-745-5209.

Salisbury — Charles Vaughn (Salisbury), 410-742-7221.

Seneca — Craig Tufts, 703-679-4438 (O), or 703-689-2590 (H).

Washington County — David Weesner (Boonsboro), 301-432-7718.

Sunday, December 26

Bowie — Fred Fallon (Bowie), 301-249-1518.

Point Lookout — Patty Craig (St. Inigoes), 301-872-5670.

Monday, December 27

Crisfield — Charles Vaughn (Salisbury), 410-742-7221.

Tuesday, December 28

Ocean City — Chan Robbins (Laurel), 301-725-1176.

Wednesday, December 29

Blackwater — Chan Robbins (Laurel), 301-725-1176.

Chincoteague, VA — Teta Kain (Gloucester, VA), 804-693-7699.

Rock Run — Dennis Kirkwood (White Hall), 410-652-5905.

Sunday, January 2

Annapolis/Gibson Island—Sue Ricciardi (Arnold), 410-647-9513, or Hal Wierenga (Arnold), 410-647-7439.

Baltimore Harbor — Peter Webb (Baltimore), 410-486-1217.

Sugarloaf — Gary Nelson (Bethesda), 301-897-8916, or Keith Van Ness (Walkersville), 301-845-4450.

DNR Reports...

(continued from page 1, column 1)

Marylanders to observe wildlife were done so in Maryland. That translates into a lot of money being spent right here. Another $125 million was spent for equipment, such as binoculars and field guides.

As you know, wildlife viewing as an outdoor recreational pursuit is exciting and growing in Maryland and elsewhere. With the help of our recent survey, we plan to expand wildlife viewing opportunities here to better serve you, as birdwatchers, and the other citizens of Maryland interested in observing our wildlife.

Chapter Chatterbox

(continued from page 1, column 3)

The Howard County Bird Club has produced two checklists of a somewhat different stripe from Harford's. First, "The Butterflies of Howard County, Maryland: A Biological Summary and Checklist," by Richard Smith, details the occurrence level, flight period, habitat, plants or sites visited by adults, and larval host plants, for 89 species. The checklist is available free of charge by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Richard Smith, 5213 Eliot's Oak Road, Columbia, MD 21044. Second, a revision of a 1987 publication, "Howard County Plants," has just come out. It provides a list of wildflowers and their blooming dates, and — new with this edition — a list of woody plants. The plant checklist is available for $1 plus postage for 2 ounces, from Jo Solem, 10617 Graeloch Road, Laurel, MD 20723.

Anne Arundel Bird Club, like the Harford Chapter, is putting together a county bird-finding guide. Eventually the club hopes to produce an expanded edition covering much of Southern Maryland, including Prince George's, Calvert, Charles, and Saint Mary's Counties.

In addition, the Anne Arundel Chapter is planning an extended foray to Florida and the Dry Tortugas in late April 1994. The trip, to be run by "Wings," will be open to all MOSers. If you're interested in more information, call Peter Hanan at 410-721-2658, or Al Haury at 410-757-3523.

If your chapter has newsy and noteworthy items that you would like to share with the rest of the state, send it to me, Jane Hill, at 8211 Hawthorne Road, Bethesda, MD 20817. Alternately, you can contact me by phone at 301-365-1874.

Board of Directors Meeting
September 18, 1993

The MOS Board of Directors met Saturday, September 18 at Sandy Cove Conference Center, just outside of the town of North East, in Cecil County. Sandy Cove will be the site of the 1994 MOS Annual Conference and the board meeting was held here to allow MOS officers and chapter representatives to familiarize themselves with the facilities and the location.

The meeting was called to order by MOS President Bill Newman at 10:10 a.m. The minutes from the annual meeting were accepted and then MOS Treasurer Larry Fry gave his report. He requested that each chapter submit to him a monthly report on dues collections beginning in mid-October. He also noted that the state MOS organization will pay all sales tax on DNR Calendar sales, so that chapters do not need to concern themselves with keeping track of or submitting this tax. Larry went on to state that an earlier meeting of the MOS Board of Directors had voted to contribute any remaining funds from the 1992 and 1993 Annual Meetings, including monies raised by the silent auction, the raffle, and the photo contest, to a rain forest project. He said that the money in this fund was approximately $4,000 and that it would be lumped with any chapter donations and sent to the FUNDAECO (see ***MD Yellowthroat*** 13(4), p. 3) organization. Larry asked that all chapter donations to FUNDAECO be in his hands by the end of November. A representative from the Talbot Chapter mentioned at this point that his chapter had joined ranks with the Patuxent and Montgomery County chapters to offer a challenge grant to MOS members for the FUNDAECO rain forest development program.

The Conservation Chairman was represented by Joy Wheeler of the Baltimore Chapter, who reported that once again the Loch Raven Reservoir is under threat due to plans to expand the neighboring golf course. Joy noted that Loch Raven is a resource enjoyed by birders from around the state and that all of us should make our voices heard to protest the planned destruction of habitat. She has petitions available for interested MOS members. In her role as Library Chair, Joy went on to say that two brass plaques commemorating early MOS organizers Seth Low and Florence Burner had been rescued from tum Suden and were now in residence at the MOS Library at Cylburn Mansion. The plaques will form part of a display planned to celebrate the 50th anniversary of MOS in 1995.

Linda Bystrak, the Education Committee Chair, noted that surveys had been mailed in the spring to all MOS chapters and that, as yet, very few have been returned. She urged chapters to fill out and return the questionnaires. She went on to mention that information on various ornithological education opportunities around the state is being collected, along with national-level programs and workshops, and that plans are underway to share this information with MOS members via a regular column in the ***MD Yellowthroat***. Linda is also working on organizing a speakers bureau and she requested input on known good presenters.

Jean Fry, one of the organizers of the 1994 Annual Meeting, reported that literature concerning the conference would be mailed to MOS members in November. The deadline for registration will be January 7, since MOS must commit to Sandy Cove by January 21. Since approximately 300 attendees will be required in order for us to have exclusive use of the Sandy Cove facility, MOS has issued invitations to two other birding organizations, the Delmarva Ornithological Society of Delaware and the Valley Forge Audubon Society of Pennsylvania, to join us at next year's meeting. Dave Webb reported on the array of field trips currently planned for the conference and noted that the conference will be held on the weekend of peak horseshoe crab activity along the shores of Delaware Bay. There should be some great birding the weekend of the conference!

Jane Farrell, standing in for the Chair of the Long Range Planning Committee, said that the response to the questionnaire in the September/October issue of the ***MD Yellowthroat*** was very poor and urged that chapter presidents make a special plea that members return it as soon as possible. Dave Brinker noted that the Research Committee had received three research grant proposals in the past month and that more information on these would be forthcoming soon. He went on to state that he was continuing work on the compilation of a comprehensive key-word-encoded index of articles appearing in the last 20 years of ***MD Birdlife***. Dave has been working with Brian Needler, a professional indexer with the National Geographic Society, to make sure the project is carried out correctly. If anyone needs access to this data prior to publication, he or she should contact Dave Brinker directly.

The Sanctuary Committee Chair, Dotty Mumford, delivered an exhaustive report on the condition of tum Suden and work that is ongoing prior to the donation of this property to Harford County. She estimated that about $5,000 would be required to clean up the property, make necessary repairs to the building, and address the issue of the contaminated water supply there. Several attendees asked whether MOS should be spending this much money on the property if our intention is to donate it to Harford County. Dotty argued that MOS had a moral obligation to present the property in usable condition. Another person noted that the property was being donated to the conservation and education arm of Harford County, a group that had a very small working budget and which would probably not be able to afford the repairs on its own. President Bill Newman said that the Sanctuary Committee had a working budget and it was to be dispensed at their discretion. The question of whether or not to spend the $5,000 was thus not a question for the board. Dotty also noted that MOS still has the John Wenuga bequest of $110,000 for an Eastern Shore Sanctuary in the bank and that the search for a suitable property is continuing.

Sue Ricciardi, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, placed the following names before the board for election to the 1993-94 Nominating Committee: Graham Edgerton, Baltimore Chapter; Jan Reese, Talbot Chapter; and Dan Southworth, Howard Chapter. These three were unanimously approved by the board for a two-year term and join current members Ann Mitchell, Washington Chapter, and Gary Nelson, Montgomery Chapter.

John Malcolm reported that the Atlas material is at the publisher and that we are still awaiting the first set of galleys. He expects them soon and intensive review of them will begin as soon as they're received. In the meantime, the Atlas Committee is working on the index. Chan Robbins said that the March 1992 issue of ***MD Birdlife*** will be mailed shortly and that the June 1992 issue is at the printers. He repeated his plea for more articles and other submissions.

Phil Davis, the new Secretary of the MD/DC Records Committee, began his report by moving that Erika Wilson be formally thanked by MOS for her 8 years of service as his predecessor. He then noted that the criteria for sightings the Records Committee would consider was being rewritten and would be published in the ***MD Yellowthroat*** when a final document had been approved. He noted that a status report of current Records Committee activities and decisions would be forthcoming soon, along with an updated reporting form (see elsewhere in this issue of the ***MD Yellowthroat***).

Someone noted that draft versions of the new "yellow book," currently being prepared by Jim Stasz and Bob Ringler, contained sighting records which had formally been disapproved by the MD/DC Records Committee. They wanted to know if it was wise to foster two separate criteria for inclusion of rare bird sightings. Bob Ringler responded that all such disputed sightings would be clearly marked in the text and tables as hypothetical species.

The President noted that upcoming board meetings would be held on December 11 in Howard County, on February 12 in Baltimore County, and on April 16 in Wicomico County. At this point he stated that Linda and Paul Bystrak had prepared a slide show and a tour of Sandy Cove, both of which would take place at the conclusion of the meeting. The meeting was then adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

An Open Letter To MOS Members

Dear Fellow MOS Member:

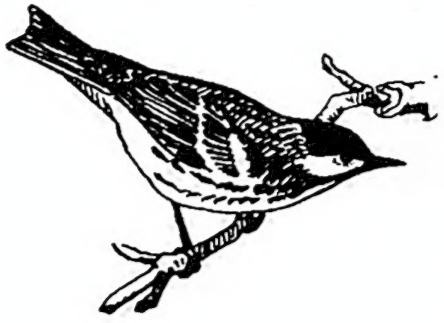
While visiting Herrington Manor State Park in Garrett County last summer, I stopped in and picked up their bird list. It was deplorable! It was missing many species and it gave no indication of abundance or seasonal distribution. I've been going up there off and on for 46 years (with a big gap for the last 20-25 years). Without working very hard, I added 9 species to the park's list. None of these were unexpected. Some are species that I remember as common 30 years ago, and still are common, but were not on the list. Rose-breasted grosbeak is just one example. I dropped off my list of "new species" at the visitor's center.

This leads me to ask the question, "Are all MD park lists so awful?" If they are, we should do something about them. If we desire to educate the general public about birds, we should remember that these lists are one way that persons outside of the birding community can find out which birds are present in various public places. We should do what we can to ensure the accuracy of these "public" checklists.

I challenge all MOS members to visit their favorite state or county park, pick up a checklist and communicate what you see (especially additions and breeding birds) to park staff. This can be a good activity for clubs or the atlas workers who are bored with no projects to work on. This sometimes takes a bit of effort, because most modern park staff are more concerned with people management than natural resources. One needs to find the right person to coordinate with, and sometimes this can take awhile. There may be someone in MD DNR Wildlife Division to whom we can funnel these reports, but after 20 years out of state, I have no contacts in the DNR.

Richard Jule Hollis
3351 Lower West Branch Road
Iowa City, IA 52245
(319) 338-4834

Ed.: Responses to this letter are welcome and will be printed in the ***MD Yellowthroat.***



Sanctuary News
by Dotty Mumford

On August 21, Jean and Larry Fry, representing Harford Chapter, Al Haury, MOS Vice President, and I met at tum Suden Sanctuary to assess what needed to be done to the facility before it was transferred to the Harford County Public School System. We all agreed that the place should be brought up to a "sound" condition before the transfer is made. We made a list of the things we felt needed to be done and then sorted out items that could be done by volunteers at a workday or that must be completed by a paid contractor. We scheduled two workdays: September 5 and October 16.

On the September 5 workday about 15 people participated, representing Harford, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, and Frederick Chapters. These people did an incredible amount of work. Overgrown vegetation was removed from around the house, dead trees cut up and removed, and the lawn areas reestablished. Trash and junk (including old worn-out furniture) removed from the house and yard filled an entire dumpster. The old, rotten gutters were removed and a hole in the bathroom wall was patched. The house was cleaned throughout with two people spending most of the workday cleaning the kitchen. It was dismaying to discover the water pump was not working, but the neighbors across the street very obligingly allowed us to fetch water at their outside faucet.

Since that workday, a contractor has been engaged to repair the carport roof, install new gutters, and do some other minor repairs. The plumber reports that the water pump will have to be replaced. There may be a problem with the septic tank, in which case it, too, will need to be replaced.

The October 16 workday is scheduled for painting the house. A report will appear in the next *MD Yellowthroat*. Don't forget that the annual fall Irish Grove Workday Weekend is scheduled for November 6 & 7. Please make an effort to come and help. We need all the help we can get!

Education News and Notes
by Linda Bystrak

Congratulations to Lucretia Krantz, Eric D'Aleo and other contributors to the new "Wetland Wise" curriculum! These staff members of the Horsehead Wetlands Center in Grasonville, MD, located just over the Bay Bridge on the Eastern Shore, have assembled a fantastic ornithology program targeted for third graders. The focus is on ducks common to our area, and the approach is rather special. Rather than just looking at pictures in a bird book, this program supplies a pair of mounted ducks in a box with other hands-on teaching aides. Students are encouraged to touch the birds as they examine its physical adaptations for survival. Enough supplementary activities accompany the ducks to allow instructors to teach an entire unit.

Teachers from at least four Maryland school systems will be attending workshops to learn how to use this valuable teaching aid before receiving the materials. Baltimore Gas & Electric Co. is sponsoring the Baltimore City workshop, and the Waterfowl Festival is sponsoring one in Wicomico County. The curriculum was pilot-tested in Connecticut schools last year, and will continue to be evaluated this year. For more information about "Wetland Wise," and to inquire about sponsoring the program in your local schools, call 410-827-6694.

Congratulations also to Gary Griffith of the Harford County MOS! Gary has succeeded in convincing the editors to print a weekly ornithology column in *The Cecil Whig*, a daily newspaper in Cecil County. We applaud Gary's efforts to help educate larger numbers of citizens about ornithology through this medium, and encourage other MOS members across the state to do the same.

MOS Research Grants

The Maryland Ornithological Society announces the availability of research grants for ornithological research to be conducted in the State of Maryland. Grants are generally limited to amounts less than $2,000. If the research is to be done at or near one of the MOS sanctuaries, the society may be able to provide accommodations at a nominal cost. Proposals are reviewed when received; response time is approximately eight weeks. For application guidelines and further information write:

David F. Brinker
MOS Research Committee
115 North Beechwood Ave.
Catonsville, MD 21228

13:5/93

Maryland/DC Records Committee
Status Report as of October 1, 1993

The records below have changed in status since the last committee report was published in the March/April 1993 issue of the *MD Yellowthroat* (MD/DCRC record numbers are in parenthesis):

Records Accepted:

MARYLAND

ROSS' GOOSE (92-39) Blackwater NWR, Dorchester Co, January 1 - February 8, 1992. [Accidental in Maryland].

KING EIDER (92-36) Ocean City, Worcester Co., May 18, 1991. [Accidental in Maryland].

KING EIDER (92-37) Laytonsville, Montgomery Co., November 5, 1991. [Accidental in Maryland].

HARLEQUIN DUCK (92-38) Elliott Island, Dorchester Co., May 9, 1992. [Unusual location].

POMARINE JEAGER (92-25) Seneca, Montgomery Co., July 8, 1990. [Unusual inland location].

LONG-TAILED JEAGER (92-27) Atlantic Ocean, Worcester Co., September 28, 1991. [First Maryland record].

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL (91-24) Laytonsville, Montgomery Co., January 1, 1991. [First Maryland record].

VERMILLION FLYCATCHER (92-28) Assateague Island, Worcester Co., September 29, 1991. [First Maryland record].

SEDGE WREN (92-30) Rockville, Montgomery Co., August 19 - September 1, 1983. [Unusual breeding location].

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (92-05) Assateague Island, Worcester Co., September 14, 1986. [Accidental in Maryland].

BOBOLINK (92-14) Seneca, Montgomery Co., December 22, 1985. [Unusual date].

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD (92-11) Shorter's Wharf, Dorchester Co., February 28, 1991. [Accidental in Maryland].

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL (DC003) Georgetown Reservoir, DC, December 18, 1990 - March 21, 1991. [Only one previous DC record].

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL (DC007) Georgetown Reservoir, DC, December 26, 1991 - February 23, 1992. [Only one previous DC record].

Records NOT accepted:

MARYLAND

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL (91-07) Sandy Point State Park, Anne Arundel Co., September 13, 1990.

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT (92-31) Lilypons, Frederick Co., March 15, 1992.

Records Under Review:

MARYLAND

EARED GREBE (92-07) Chesapeake Beach, Calvert Co., March 28, 1991. [Accidental in Maryland].

BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE (91-28) Town Hill, Allegheny Co., October 26, 1990. [No previous accepted Maryland records].

MISSISSIPPI KITE (91-23) Ft. Smallwood Park, Anne Arundel Co., April 28. 1990. [Only one accepted record for Maryland].

SWAINSON'S HAWK (93-02) Ft. Smallwood Park, Anne Arundel Co., April 28, 1990. [Only one previous Maryland record].

SWAINSON'S HAWK (93-03) Hancock, Washington Co., November 4, 1991. [Only one previous Maryland record].

SWAINSON'S HAWK (93-04) Laytonsville, Montgomery Co., March 14, 1992. [Only one previous Maryland record].

SANDHILL CRANE (91-15) Poolesville, Montgomery Co., May 25, 1988) September 24, 1989. [Accidental in Maryland.]

LESSER YELLOWLEGS (91-28) Lilypons, Frederick Co., January 9, 1985. [Unusual date].

RED PHALAROPE (91-05) Sandy Point State Park, Anne Arundel Co, December 24, 1989. [Accidental inland in Maryland].

FRANKLIN'S GULL (88-07) Sandy Point State Park, Anne Arundel Co., May 11-30, 1976. [Accidental in Maryland].

FRANKLIN'S GULL (93-01) Sandy Point State Park, Anne Arundel Co., May 21, 1976. [Accidental in Maryland].

ARCTIC TERN (93-05) Ocean City (Fourth Street "flats"), Worcester, Co., July 2, 1991. [No previous accepted Maryland records].

ARCTIC TERN (93-06) Ocean City (Fourth Street "flats"), Worcester, Co., April 28, 1991. [No previous accepted Maryland records].

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER (93-10) Blackwater NWR, Dorchester Co., December 5, 1992. [Accidental in Maryland].

PAINTED BUNTING (93-07) Stockton, Worcester Co., April 19, 1992. [Accidental in Maryland].

PAINTED BUNTING (93-08) Beltsville, Prince George's Co., December 2, 1992. [Accidental in Maryland].

EDITOR

PAINTED BUNTING (93-09) Beltsville, Prince George's Co., November 28, 1992. [Accidental in Maryland].

HARRIS' SPARROW (90-20) Nassawango Iron Furnace, Worcester, Co. February 4, 1989. [Accidental in Maryland].

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD (92-08) Blackwater NWR, Dorchester Co., August 13, 1988. [Accidental in Maryland].

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

EARED GREBE (DC009) Hains Point, DC, April 15, 1990. [No previous accepted DC records].

BLACK-NECKED STILT (DC010) Potomac River, DC, July 21, 1991. [No previous accepted DC records].

LARK SPARROW (DC011) Rock Creek Park, DC, October 4-6, 1991. [Accidental in DC].

Corrections:

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER - University of Maryland Central Farm, Howard Co., MD: Correct dates are October 9-10, 1988 rather than February 4, 1989 as reported.

GREAT CORMORANT - Sceneca, Montgomery Co., MD, May 11, 1991. This record was listed as having been accepted. This is incorrect. The record was NOT accepted by the committee.

Revised Sighting Form: A revised MD/DCRC bird sighting form is included in this issue of the *MD Yellowthroat*. This form can serve as a guide for submitting sighting reports on species sighted that are rare in terms of range or season (dates). Please send sighting reports to the Secretary.

Changes in Review Criteria: A revision to the Maryland/DC review criteria is being prepared by Bob Ringler and Bruce Peterjohn. This revision will simplify the current criteria used to determine whether a sighting must be reviewed by the committee for acceptance as a state record. This revised review criteria should be ready for publication in the next issue of the *MD Yellowthroat*.

Committee News: Many thanks to Erika Wilson for serving as the Secretary of the committee for eight years! Please send new sightings to the new secretary:

Phil Davis, MD/DCRC Secretary
2549 Vale Court
Davidsonville, MD 21035

More Details On The 1994 Annual Meeting

Paul and Linda Bystrak, 1994 Co-chairmen, have assembled a 5-6 minute slide talk about next year's annual meeting. It comes complete with a numbered script and a handful of brochures. Several copies have been made, and Paul and Linda are requesting that each chapter present it to their members this fall . Look for it at your October or November meeting.

The location of next year's meeting in Cecil County opens up some new field trip opportunities. For instance, the State of Maryland has owned the Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area for over 16 years, but few Maryland birders know about it. The property was assembled by William DuPont, Jr., and currently includes 5,300 acres. It is in the Piedmont, on the Pennsylvania border. A lot of the acreage is in grass hay, making it one of the state's largest grasslands. It is bisected by deep creek valleys which contain old growth forests.

Because of the grasslands, bobolinks are common breeding birds, along with such typical field species as grasshopper sparrows, meadowlarks, and vesper sparrows. At the same time, the adjoining forests contain such species as cerulean warblers, warbling vireos, veeries and pileated woodpeckers. Another specialty of the property is a large number of nesting vultures, both turkey and black. We plan to have at least two field trips there, a morning trip along the Big Elk Creek bottomlands, and an afternoon trip to look for bobolinks in the fields.

Another potential field trip is to Pea Patch Island in the Delaware River. The island is reached via a passenger ferry (nominal fee) that can accommodate 80 passengers. It leaves from Delaware City, which is less than an hour's drive from our conference site. On the island is a large stone fort and former Civil War POW camp, surrounded by a state park. An adjoining nature trail leads to one of the largest heron rookeries on the East Coast. A state naturalist will be available to lead our tours.

The Harford Chapter, host for next year's meeting is planning to make it one of our best conferences ever, so be sure to mark your calendars to reserve the weekend of May 20-22, 1994, for the MOS Annual Meeting!

Conservation Corner

(continued from page 7, column 3)

finding better answers to the problems that have already been identified. If warranted, accept reasonable limitations. We must realize that the true key to the restoration of our native waterfowl both in species diversity and numbers, is the restoration and protection of habitat.

1993-1994 CHRISTMAS COUNTS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18
Allegany County
Catoctin
Denton
Elkton
Jug Bay
Triadelphia Reservoir
Washington, DC

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19
Lower Kent County
Port Tobacco
St. Michaels
Salisbury
Seneca
Washington County

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26
Bowie
Point Lookout

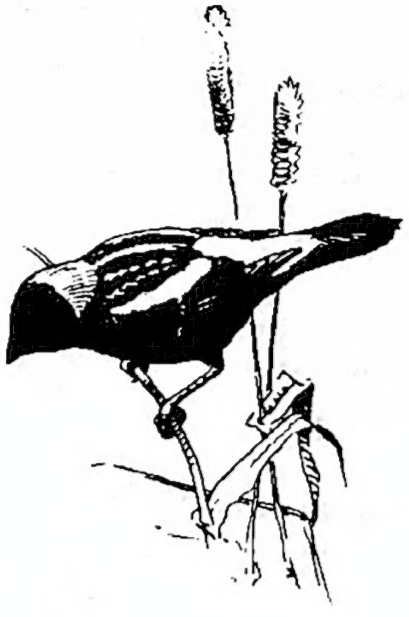
MONDAY, DECEMBER 27
Crisfield

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28
Ocean City

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29
Blackwater
Rock Run

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2
Annapolis/Gibson Island
Baltimore Harbor
Sugarloaf

See Pg. 2 for Compilers



Call For Papers 1994 Annual Meeting

The MOS Research Committee sponsors a regular program of reports on the natural history of Maryland, presented each year during the Annual Conference. The 1994 Conference will be held May 20-22 in Elk Neck, Cecil County, at the head of the Chesapeake Bay. If you would like to share the results of any research you have carried out on the natural history of Maryland birdlife, please contact Dave Brinker at (410) 744-3246. Alternately, send an abstract of your presentation to: David F. Brinker, MOS Research Committee, 115 North Beechwood Avenue, Catonsville, MD 21228. Abstracts are due by April 15.

The Maryland Nature Conservancy Seeks Volunteer Land Monitors

The Nature Conservancy protects high quality natural areas through a variety of methods, including purchase, gift, conservation easement, and the Natural Areas Registry Program. The objective of the Registry is to educate private landowners about the importance of their property, and to honor and recognize them for their voluntary commitment to protecting Maryland's natural heritage. To qualify as a Registry site, an area must support plants or animals that are rare in Maryland, or contain natural communities that are native to the state. The landowner makes a voluntary, non-binding agreement to keep the land in its natural state and to notify The Nature Conservancy of any threats to the site.

The Maryland Chapter has volunteer monitor positions available for over 50 such sites located throughout the state. Monitors choose a site after attending a 3-hour training session. These volunteers visit the site and its owner once a year to informally monitor the protected species or community and to maintain a positive relationship between The Nature Conservancy and the Registry landowner. Training sessions are offered twice monthly at varying locations. For more information, please call Deborah Barber, Volunteer Coordinator, at (301) 656-8673 (Chevy Chase).

1993 MARYLAND/DC LOCALITY LIST COMPILATION

Each year, the MOS compiles and publishes totals from member's state and local bird lists. Forms for submitting 1993 locality lists are provided in this issue of the ***Maryland Yellowthroat***. You are invited to submit your totals for any of the following list categories:

STATE/COUNTY CUMULATIVE LISTS: This category is for your "lifetime" species totals identified anywhere in the state of Maryland, DC, or within any of the 23 Maryland counties. You may submit totals for any of these localities. Due to space limitations, please only submit totals which exceed 50% of the "maximum" number for each locality. The form contains the latest maximums and the 50% threshold for each locality.

STATE/COUNTY 1993 ANNUAL LISTS: This category is for total species identified only in 1993 for the same localities as above. These totals may be reported at any threshold.

"YARD" LIST: This category is for cumulative yard list totals, and 1993 totals. You may count any species you have identified while in your "yard" (that is, the property contiguous to the site of your home). "Flyovers" and other birds identified <u>from</u> your yard (even if they were not <u>in</u> your yard) also count. Additional information is requested on your "yard".

"ALL-COUNTY" LIST: This category is for counting the number of species you have identified in each of the 23 Maryland counties. For example, if you have identified a Northern Mockingbird, an American Crow, a Downy Woodpecker and a Red-tailed Hawk in each of the 23 Maryland counties, your list total would be "4".

"ALL-TIME HIGH" ANNUAL LISTS: This category is used to track all-time high annual lists from the current and previous years. Annual prior year totals for the various reporting localities may be submitted. For Maryland, submitted totals should equal or exceed 271 (70% of the "maximum possible" number). For individual counties, totals submitted from previous years should exceed either 50% of the "maximum possible" or exceed one of the top totals previously published for that county. See the March/April 1993 issue of THE MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT for previous published totals.

This year, the "maximum possible" numbers have been taken from the preliminary version of the new <u>Field List of the Birds of Maryland</u> (the "yellow book") which is currently in preparation. In some counties, the numbers vary noticeably from those previous published.

We remind those who submitted prior year list totals that it is important to update their totals. Space may not permit publication of lists that are not reasonably current.

Questions ??? Call: Phil Davis (301) 261-0184.

Please return the form <u>BEFORE</u> January 20, 1994 to:

Phil Davis
2549 Vale Court
Davidsonville, MD 21035

We hope that all who have participated will do so again, and that others will join in, especially those from localities which are currently less than well represented. If you have any comments, thoughts or anecdotes, please include them. Specifics on your yard habitat and size will also be of interest if your yard list total is especially high. If you have any other categories of Maryland bird lists that are appropriate (for example, all-time or 1993 state/county "Big Day" totals), send them in. We'd like to hear from you.

MOS 1993 MARYLAND/DC LOCALITY LIST REPORTING FORM

I. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name:	
Address:	
City:	County:
State:	Zip:
Phones: (day): ( )	(evening): ( )

II. STATE/COUNTY LIFE AND 1993 LISTS

Locality List	Max/50%	Life	1993	Locality List	Max/50%	Life	1993
Maryland State	393/196			District of Columbia	309/154		
MD Yard List*	-			DC Yard List*	-		
Allegany County	280/140			Howard County	285/142		
Anne Arundel County	329/164			Kent County	293/146		
Baltimore City/County	332/166			Montgomery County	309/154		
Calvert County	298/149			Prince George's County	306/153		
Caroline County	277/138			Queen Anne's County	291/145		
Carroll County	275/137			St. Mary's County	297/148		
Cecil County	274/137			Somerset County	302/151		
Charles County	270/135			Talbot County	305/152		
Dorchester County	312/156			Washington County	257/128		
Frederick County	283/141			Wicomico County	272/136		
Garrett County	265/132			Worcester County	362/181		
Harford County	287/143			All-County List	214/---		

* **Yard List Information**:

County: _____

Location: Home: _____ Work: _____ Other? (specify): _____

Brief Description: (size, habitat, etc):

III. ANNUAL ALL-TIME HIGH LISTS (for previous years)

Locality List	Year	#	Locality List	Year	#

(Attach Additional Sheets If Needed)

MD/DCRC BIRD SIGHTING DOCUMENTATION GUIDE

SPECIES: _____ DATE SIGHTED: _____

DATE OF THIS WRITEUP: _____

OBSERVER'S NAME, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER:

1. LOCATION OF SIGHTING: STATE _____ COUNTY _____ PLACE _____
   HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

2. CONDITIONS OF SIGHTING: TIME, WEATHER, SKY & OPTICS:

3. NUMBER, SEX & AGE OF BIRD(S):

4. PLUMAGE DESCRIPTION:

5. BEHAVIOR DESCRIPTION:

6. OBSERVER'S GENERAL BIRDING & SPECIES EXPERIENCE; OTHER OBSERVERS PRESENT:

7. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

SEE REVERSE FOR DOCUMENTATION CHECKLIST; SKETCHES, PHOTOS & VIDEOS ARE ENCOURAGED !

SEND YOUR REPORT TO:

Phil Davis, MD/DCRC Secretary
2549 Vale Court
Davidsonville, MD 21035

MD/DCRC CHECKLIST OF POINTS TO INCLUDE IN WRITE-UP

Not all these points will be noted, nor are they all necessary to correctly identify a species, but to not include something you did see can lessen the value of your documentation. This checklist highlights items of details that you will want to include in your report. Field notes are encouraged, preferably before consulting a field guide. Sightings should be written-up as soon as possible after the observation. Please include a write-up of how you identified the species in question and how you eliminated similar ones. Field sketches as well as photographs or videos are encouraged!

1. LOCATION:
   - State: MD or DC & County
   - Place: name/town, park, etc.
   - Habitat: field, woods, water, plants, etc.

2. CONDITIONS
   - Time of day
   - Length of sighting
   - Temperature
   - Sky/cloud cover
   - Wind/speed & direction
   - Precipitation/snow cover
   - Water/depth, waves/ice cover
   - Distance to bird
   - Sun location in relation to you & bird
   - Optics used/binoculars, scope/power

3. NUMBER, SEX & AGE
   - Number of birds
   - Sex by plumage or behavior
   - Age by plumage or behavior

4. PLUMAGE DESCRIPTION:
   - Head: colors & pattern
   - Bill: length, shape, color
   - Eye: color, ring, stripe, brow
   - Upperparts: nape, back, rump
   - Tail: colors, shape, length
   - Legs: color & length
   - Underparts: throat, breast, belly, flanks, vent
   - Wings: colors, wingbars, length, wing linings
   - What parts of the bird couldn't be seen

5. BEHAVIOR:
   - Posture, size, shape
   - Feeding method
   - Vocalizations
   - Flight pattern
   - Preening or sleeping behavior
   - Other birds present/interactions with other birds

6. EXPERIENCE & OTHER OBSERVERS:
   - Experience with this species & location/number of years birding
   - Other observers present (independent submissions are encouraged!)

7. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
   - Field sketches made (please include)
   - Photos/videos taken (please include)
   - Field guide(s) used
   - Reference articles, etc
   - Any other information of relevance

The Conservation Corner: The Trouble With Idiot Mallards

by Rich Dolesh

In the last issue of the ***MD Yellowthroat***, in the first column I agreed to write about conservation issues, I said that I would try to entertain and educate, but most of all to challenge MOS members to do something for the conservation of birds and bird habitat.

Well, here comes a high, hard one, as they say in baseball: Would you care if you learned that over a million free-flying pen-raised mallards have been released in Maryland in the past decade?

Would you care if you knew that these basically domesticated but genetically-suspect mallards were interbreeding with, and displacing, the threatened American black duck? Would you care if you knew that these usually sedentary, but often free-flying ducks had the potential to spread deadly, contagious waterfowl diseases such as duck viral enteritis (DVE) to migratory flocks of ducks on state and national wildlife refuges? Would you care if you knew that a politically powerful and well-heeled group of landowners and politicians had the juice to get the U.S. Congress to intervene in the legitimate attempt of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to control this practice when the ability to raise unlimited amounts of these birds for the primary purpose of hunting them—in amounts far greater than regular state and federal laws allows—was threatened?

This is a truly thorny conservation issue. It involves private property rights, private enterprise, hunting privileges, the conservation of threatened species, the appropriate use of duck stamp revenues, the protection of wetland habitat, and the long-term survival of a number of waterfowl species in the Atlantic flyway. As with most complex conservation issues, there are no clear villains and no clear heroes.

In a nutshell, here is the story: As waterfowl populations in North America declined precipitously in the past decades, hunters, who have long paid the tab for conservation, began to seek ways to use their duck stamp revenues to boost waterfowl populations so that hunting opportunities would not continue to diminish. In Maryland, the legislature allowed 1/2 of duck stamp revenues to be used for habitat acquisition and protection, and 1/2 of the revenues for the release of captively-reared ducks. The first duck stamp ducks, although quite stupid, were greeted warmly by hunters on opening day, who had no other waterfowl to shoot.

Let me digress a moment. It is not my intention nor my desire to anthropomorphize a poor duck. The attribution of human characteristics to animals is usually a result of a lack of understanding of the basic nature of those animals. It is far easier to pretend that wild animals have human feelings and qualities than it is to meet them on their own terms as part of their own environment. The pen-raised mallards under discussion are neither aware of nor responsible for their condition. I satirically characterize them to present the issues and frame the argument. After all, you can actually get to like the little buggers when they crowd around your dock looking for a handout, or swim after your fishing boat begging for some bread.

The first to release pen-raised mallards in Maryland in great numbers was the State of Maryland itself. The Department of Natural Resources released hundreds of thousands of mallards in the 1980's, but gradually phased the program out so that now the only pen-raised mallards released by the State are in Dorchester County for a study on the habits and patterns of the birds.

In recent years, the majority of pen-raised mallards have been released to the wild by large Eastern Shore landowners and hunting organizations who have done so in order to enhance shooting opportunities. Private landowners and shooting preserves have released these birds in a state and federally controlled program known as RSA, or the "regulated shooting area."

The "RSA" is essentially a privately-owned wildlife habitat area and hunting preserve. It is privately owned property that is maintained at private expense. The game that is managed there, and the birds that are raised and/or released there, are done so for the benefit of members and guests who kill game birds, mostly ducks, in numbers that are not regulated by the state and federal hunting season dates and bag limits.

In theory, the RSA is a practical and acceptable alternative to the stringent and very limited bag limits of recent years for those with the means and the land to raise such birds for their own sport and consumption. The arguments in favor of well-run RSA's can be quite compelling. The economic benefits are undeniable. There is a significant boost to local economies. Many people are employed, local businesses prosper, and there is even a boost to the tax-base by enhanced land values of wetlands. In a real way, RSA's contribute to the continuation of Chesapeake Bay hunting traditions and culture. RSA managers claim that by their operations that they are reducing hunting pressure and thus decreasing the harvest of wild birds. Also, that the creation of new and newly managed wetland habitat results in net gains for quality waterfowl habitat overall.

However, the arguments for greater regulation and control of RSA's may be even more compelling, and some of the very arguments to support RSA's may be one's to oppose them.

There are several problems with the concept and practice of RSA's, but the two most significant problems are the genetic impact of mixing large numbers of pen-raised birds with wild migratory birds, and the possibility of the transmission of contagious waterfowl diseases. In general, there is very little knowledge of just what will happen as a result of dumping a million genetically diminished mallards into the wild gene pool. There is no question that mallards, both wild and pen-raised, are interbreeding with American black ducks. Black ducks are truly a species in need of conservation in the Chesapeake Bay, and all measures taken to date to halt their alarming decline have been less than effective. To add to the problems of this species, black ducks are not only under attack genetically, but they are being displaced within their own nesting range by the more aggressive mallards.

The second major problem with RSA's is the very real possibility that the artificial concentration of waterfowl in RSA's will be the cause for the transmission of highly contagious diseases such as avian cholera, DVE, and others. The enhanced habitat and food supply in RSA's is beneficial not only to the pen-raised birds, but it is attractive to migratory birds as well—and there's the rub. Biologists don't see the greatest threat being the RSA-reared birds leaving for greener pastures, but the RSA itself being a magnet for wild birds coming in. Those wild birds are very free-ranging indeed, and may be visiting, and thus possibly infecting, flocks in numerous places, including state and federal wildlife refuges.

There are other questions relating to RSA's as well, such as the regulatory issue of pen-raised, semi-domesticated mallards being the equivalent of live decoys. It has been illegal to use live decoys since 1954. Another question is an ethical one. Is the practice of raising ducks in RSA's solely for the sport of shooting them the equivalent of allowing duck hunting only for an elite class of wealthy hunters who can shoot far over the bag limits, hunt on Sundays, and shoot for far longer seasons? There are also questions relating to proper waterfowl management methods and practices. It seems unreasonable to allow an RSA operator to release all the ducks they are capable of producing if there is not adequate habitat to support them if they become free-ranging.

What is the solution? Given the present state of knowledge about the effects of these ducks on wild populations, there is no clear cut solution. However, it is fairly obvious to reasonable observers that greater study is needed, and temporary controls may also be needed. There is a three-year study presently underway, due to be completed in 1994. The present political maneuvering to prevent any new regulations from taking effect until this study on basic ecology is complete next year is inappropriate if there are compelling reasons to start examining and possibly restricting the practice now. Further, the on-going study does not even address the issue of possible disease transmission vectors. Waterfowl biologists state that this is the most important questions, and they are at a loss on how to even begin such investigations.

Even if there is no solution at present, there are effective actions that should be taken. Members of the Maryland Ornithological Society need to learn all that they can about the issues, and responsibly contribute to the solution of the problems. We have a great amount of expertise that we can bring to bear. MOS members should write or call their elected U.S. Representatives and Senators to encourage an honest examination of all the issues. There is no questions that more study is needed. The risk factors have not yet been identified. Also, MOS should encourage other responsible conservation organizations to join in the search for answers. This is a conservation issue that affects not just hunters and hunting interests, but one that affects all of our waterfowl resources.

My advice to RSA owners and managers is to invite us to join with you in an unbiased examination of the problems. Also, commit yourselves to

(continued on page 6, column 1)

MOS Calendar
November 1993 through January 1994

Monday, November 1

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Centennial Park. Walk around the lake to look for migrating waterfowl and more. Meet 8:30 a.m. at west end lot. For further information, contact Bonnie Ott at 410-461-3361.

Tuesday, November 2

MEETING. Baltimore. "The Life History of the Purple Martin," by Kathleen Klimkiewicz. 7:30 p.m. at Cylburn Mansion. For further information, contact Pete Webb of Baltimore at 410-486-1217.

Thursday, November 4

MEETING. Frederick. "Shrikes," by Laurie MacIvor. White elephant sale of excess birding paraphernalia. 7:30 p.m. in the Music Room at Frederick High School. 650 College Parkway, Frederick. For further information, contact Helen Horrocks of Frederick at 301-831-6315.

Friday, November 5

MEETING. Anne Arundel. "Waterfowl of the Chesapeake," by Doug Forsell. 8:00 p.m. at Severn River Junior High School, Peninsula Farm Road, Arnold.

MEETING. Harford. "Birds of the Great Basin Desert" by Dr. Robert Trever. 6:15 p.m. at Churchville Presbyterian Church, MD 22 & MD 136. For further information, call Jean Fry at 410-452-8539.

Saturday-Sunday, November 6-7

SANCTUARY WORK DAY. Irish Grove. Join MOS members from throughout the state to fix up the house and grounds at our sanctuary near Crisfield. Some birding will be mixed in with the maintenance work. Overnight accommodations available. For further information, contact the sanctuary chairperson, Dotty Mumford of Annapolis, at 410- 849-8336.

Saturday, November 6

FIELD TRIP. Carroll. Piney Run Lake for waterfowl. Meet 8:00 a.m. at gate to Piney Run Park. For more information, contact the leader, Bill Kulp, at 410-775-2264.

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Town Hill. Drive to Hancock for breakfast, then on to Town Hill for migrating hawks. Bring lunch. Return to Frederick by approx. 3:00 p.m. For further information, contact the leader, Linda Keller of Frederick, at 301-834-7312.

Sunday, November 7

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Centennial Park. Walk around the lake to look for migrating waterfowl and more. Meet 8:00 a.m. at west end lot. For further information, contact Bonnie Ott at 410-461-3361.

FIELD TRIP. Washington. C&O Canal at Hancock. Ducks, geese, and woodland birds. Meet 1:30 p.m. at the MVA Park & Ride. The leader is Bob Keedy, 301-733-7708.

Monday, November 8

MEETING. Kent. "Birding Optics: What You Should Know," by Phil Davis. 7:30 p.m. at Kent County Library.

Wednesday, November 10

MEETING. Carroll. Program TBA. 7:30 p.m. at Carroll Community College. For further information, contact Bob Ringler at 410-549-6031.

Thursday, November 11

MEETING. Howard. "Farewell to Midway," by Erika Wilson and Claudia Wilds. 7:45 p.m. at Longfellow Elementary School, Columbia.

Friday-Sunday, November 12-14

FIELD TRIP. Harford. MD/VA Eastern Shore. Includes trips to Chincoteague NWR and Deal Island. Call Jean Fry, 410-452-8539, for details by Wednesday, October 27.

Saturday, November 13

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Sandy Point. Popular trip to a local state park. Snow Buntings, Peregrine Falcon and maybe a rarity. Meet 7:30 a.m. in Busch's Chesapeake Inn parking lot on Rt. 50. For further information, contact the leader, Hal Wierenga, at 410-647-7439.

Sunday, November 14

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Horsehead Farm. Waterfowl, winter residents, and captive birds. Meet 8:30 a.m. in Busch's Chesapeake Inn parking lot on Rt. 50. For further information, contact the leader, Mary O'Leary, at 410-757-6290.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Piney Run Park. Waterfowl and winter land birds. Scopes recommended. Meet 8:30 a.m. at the park entrance. For further information, contact the leader, Burton Alexander of Baltimore, at 410-381-5574.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Centennial Park. Walk around the lake to look for migrating waterfowl and more. Meet 8:00 a.m. at west end lot. For further information, contact Bonnie Ott at 410-461-3361.

FIELD TRIP. Washington. Lakeside Trailer Court Pond & Blair's Valley Lake. The leader is Betty Wolfe, 301-824-5391.

Wednesday, November 17

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Wilde Lake. Meet 8:30 a.m. at boat dock. For further information, contact Bonnie Ott at 410-461-3361.

MEETING. Jug Bay. "Audubon Ornithology Camp in Maine," by Brenda McKelvin, Park Naturalist at Watkins Nature Center. 7:00 p.m. at Patuxent River Park. For more information, call 301-627-6074.

Thursday, November 18

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Blackwater NWR. Waterfowl by the thousands, Canada and snow geese, tundra swans, bald eagles, and brown-headed nuthatches. Meet 9:00 a.m. at the refuge visitor center. For directions and reservations, contact the leader, Willem Maane, at 301-229-1628.

MEETING. Montgomery. "From the Mountains to the Prairies: Birds of Eastern Colorado" by Bill Oberman. 8:00 p.m. at Potomac Presbyterian Church, Potomac.

Friday, November 19

MEETING. Caroline. Jay Abercrombie will discuss his book, **Walks and Rambles on the Delmarva Peninsula: A Guide for Hikers and Naturalists**. 7:30 p.m. at the Caroline County Public Library in Denton. For further information, contact Debby Bennett, 410-479-2978.

(continued at top of next page)

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Saturday-Sunday, November 20-21

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Chincoteague NWR. Birding for waterfowl and land birds. Call leader for hotel information. Meet 7:00 a.m. in Busch's Chesapeake Inn parking lot on Rt. 50. For further information, contact the leader, Peter Hanan, at 410-721-2658.

Saturday, November 20

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Blackwater NWR. Ducks, thousands of Canada and snow geese, possible bald eagles, brown-headed nuthatches. Meet 9:30 a.m. at refuge visitor center. For further information, contact the leader, Taylor McLean of Baltimore, at 410-377-7622.

FIELD TRIP. Caroline. Details TBA. For more information, contact Debby Bennett, 410-479-2978.

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Black Hill Regional Park. Waterfowl and woodland birds at this relatively new Montgomery County Park. For further information, contact the leader, Helen Horrocks of Frederick, at 301-831-6315.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Broad Creek Owl Prowl. Limited to 20 persons. Call June Vaughn at the Conowingo Visitors Center, 410-457- 5011, weekdays, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for reservations by Friday, November 19.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Columbia Lakes. Meet 8:00 a.m. at Wilde lake boat dock. Carpool to other lakes for migrant waterfowl and possible grebes, coots, and others. The leader is Jane Farrell, 410-381-7344.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Waterfowl on the Patuxent. For reservations and directions, contact the leader, John Bjerke, at 301-963-8525.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Blackwater NWR. Waterfowl by the thousands, Canada and Snow Geese, Tundra Swans, Bald Eagles, Brown-headed Nuthatches. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Bowie Park & Ride south of US Rt. 50 or at 9:00 a.m. at the refuge visitors' center. For further information and reservations, contact the leader, Gary Nelson, at 301-897-8916.

FIELD TRIP. Washington. Piney Run Park. Visit to Carroll County for ducks and geese. Leave MVA Park & Ride lot at 8 a.m. The leader is Ann Mitchell, 301-432-2021.

Sunday, November 21

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Centennial Park. Walk around the lake to look for migrating waterfowl and more. Meet 8:00 a.m. at west end lot. For further information, contact Bonnie Ott at 410-461-3361.

FIELD TRIP. Jug Bay. Wye Island Natural Resource Area & North American Waterfowl Trust. Meet 8:00 a.m. at the Bowie fringe parking lot. For further information, contact the leader, Craig Crispell, at 301-627-7639.

Monday, November 22

MEETING. Wicomico. "What's New at the Zoo?" by Jim Rapp, Education Coordinator at the Salisbury Zoo. 7:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, Salisbury.

Tuesday, November 23

MEETING. Washington. Bird and flower slides by local nature photographer Hugh Brandenburg. 7:30 p.m. at Greenbrier Park Visitor's Center.

Sunday, November 28

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Centennial Park. Walk around the lake to look for migrating waterfowl and more. Meet 8:00 a.m. at west end lot. For further information, contact Bonnie Ott at 410-461-3361.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Lilypons & Oland Rd. Winter sparrows, raptors, waterfowl, and horned larks. Snow buntings, longspurs, and loggerhead shrikes are possible. Reservations required, limited to 12 persons. For reservations, directions, and meeting time, contact the leader, Gail MacKiernan, at 301-989-1828.

FIELD TRIP. Wicomico. Deal Island and Fairmount WMA. All day. Meet 7:30 a.m. at the Asbury United Methodist Church, Salisbury. For further information, contact the leaders, Carol and Donald Broderick, at 410-742-8920.

Thursday, December 2

CHRISTMAS DINNER MEETING. Frederick. "Birding and Bird Tour Leading in Costa Rica" by Armas Hill. 6:00 p.m. at Araby Church, Araby Church Road, Frederick. For reservation, call Helen Horrocks at 301-831-6315 or Kathy Calvert at 301-874-2868 by November 25.

Friday, December 3

MEETING. Anne Arundel. "Birding in Costa Rica" by Bob Ringler. 8:00 p.m. at Severn River Junior High School, Peninsula Farm Road, Arnold.

Saturday, December 4

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Smithsonian E.R. Center. Waterfowl and winter residents. Meet 8:00 a.m. at the Parole Plaza parking lot, on the Riva Rd. side next to the cemetery. For further information, contact the leader Wafi Rains at 301-261-7825.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Cape Henlopen. Sea ducks, Snowy Owl, Common Redpoll, and Lapland Longspur possible. Meet 6:15 a.m. at the US 40 Ames between Aberdeen and Havre de Grace. All day, bring lunch. Trip leader is Dave Webb, 410-569-0107.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Bombay Hook Bus Trip. Co-sponsored with the Howard County Rec. & Parks. $15 fee. 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Bring lunch and beverage. For further information and registration, call Bonnie Ott at 410-461-3361.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Bombay Hook NWR and Little Creek. Thousands of snow geese, other waterfowl, raptors, land birds. Meet 7:30 a.m., Hollywood Diner, Dover, U.S. 13, 2 blocks N. of DE Rt. 8. For further information and reservations call the leader, Henry Biel stein, at 301-292-9592

Wednesday, December 8

MEETING. Carroll. Program TBA. 7:30 p.m. at Carroll Community College. For further information, contact Bob Ringler at 410-549-6031.

Thursday, December 9

MEETING. Howard. "Wood Ducks" by Mike Haramis. 7:45 p.m. at Longfellow Elementary School, Columbia.

MEETING. Montgomery. "Experiences with Raptors: Their Personalities and Lifestyles" by Jon Neviaser. 8:00 p.m. at Potomac Presbyterian Church, Potomac.

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Saturday, December 11

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Southern Maryland. All day trip to Point Lookout and other locations in search of waterfowl, such as Scoters, Oldsquaw, and Great Cormorants. Bald Eagles, Brown-headed Nuthatches, and Gannets possible. Scopes recommended. Meet at 7:30 a.m. For further information, contact the leader, Steve Sanford at 410- 922-5103.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Winter weeds at Schooley Mill. Meet at 9:00 a.m. for a morning walk. For further information, contact the leaders, Georgia Morris or Bob Solem at 301-725-5037.

Sunday, December 12

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Blackwater NWR. Snow Geese, possible Ross's Goose, ducks, raptors. Meet 7:30 a.m. in Busch's Chesapeake Inn parking lot on Rt. 50. For further information, contact the leader, Steve Hult, at 410-263-8095.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Loch Raven Sparrows, ducks, and other winter residents. Scopes recommended. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Timonium Park & Ride lot. For further information, contact the leader, Steve Simon at 410-628-1929.

Monday, December 13

MEETING. Kent. "Birds Of The Chesapeake" by John W. Taylor. 7:30 p.m. at Kent County Library.

Tuesday, December 14

MEETING. Baltimore. "Show 'n Tell" Mini-slide shows by members and friends of the Baltimore Bird Club. 7:30 p.m. at Cylburn Mansion. For further information, contact Pete Webb, at 410-486-1217.

Wednesday, December 15

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY. Jug Bay. Bring a dish; birding trivia game after the feast. 6:00 p.m. at Patuxent River Park. For further information, contact the party coordinator, Renee Burns, at 301-423-8853.

Saturday, December 18

FIELD TRIP. Washington. Pre-Christmas Count. Meet 7:30 a.m. at Richardson's Restaurant.

Thursday, January 6

MEETING. Frederick. "Gull Identification" by Jim Stasz. Just in time for winter gulls. 7:30 p.m. in the Music Room at Frederick High School. 650 College Parkway, Frederick. For further information, contact Helen Horrocks of Frederick at 301-831-6315.

Friday, January 7

MEETING. Anne Arundel. "The Great Basin Desert" by Dr. Robert W. Trever. 8:00 p.m. at Severn River Junior High School, Peninsula Farm Road, Arnold.

Saturday, January 8

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Chesapeake Wildlife Sanctuary Tour the Sanctuary/Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. Fee to enter. Meet 1:30 p.m. in the Parole Plaza parking lot, on Riva Rd. side next to cemetery. For further information, contact the leader, Al Haury at 410-757-3523.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Feeder tour of three homes in eastern and northern Harford County. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Mars Supermarket parking lot, southeast corner of MD 22 and Beards Hill Road in Aberdeen. Coordinator is Bill McIntosh, 410-734-6517.

FIELD TRIP. Kent. Feeder watch and walk. Meet at the home of the leaders, John and Marge Lorenz at 8:30 a.m. For further information and directions, call the Lorenz's at 410-928-3291.

Sunday, January 9

MEETING. Baltimore. Covered Dish Supper. 5:30 p.m. at Cylburn Mansion. Lecture follows. "Journey to the End of the World: A Birder's Trip to Tierra del Fuego" by Hank Kaestner. Register with Mary Byers at 410-686-7294 by Thurs., Jan 6.

Friday, January 14

MEETING. Harford. "Show and Tell" slide presentations by chapter members. 20-slide limit per person. 6:15 p.m. at Churchville Presbyterian Church, MD 22 & MD 136. To participate, call Jean Fry, 410-452-8539.

Saturday, January 15

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Wherever birds can be found in Frederick County in January. Meet 7:30 a.m. at boat house on Culler Lake, 2nd Street & Baker Park, Frederick. For further information, contact the leader, Wilbur Hershberger at 310-898-9088.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Conowingo Dam and Elkton Landfill. Morning gull watch led by Gene Scarpulla with Lesser Black-backed, Glaucous, and Iceland Gulls possible. Meet at Fisherman's Park at Conowingo Dam at 8:00 a.m. Coordinator is Don Soubie, 410-569-2159.

Sunday, January 16

FIELD TRIP. Washington. Search for winter birds. The leader is Dave Weesner, 301-432-7718.

Thursday, January 18

MEETING. Montgomery. "Naturalists and Novelists" by David Spector. 8:00 p.m. at Potomac Presbyterian Church, Potomac.

Saturday, January 22

GULL DAY '94. The third annual regional midwinter gull survey. For further information, contact the coordinators, Rick Blom at 410-893-4339 or Gene Scarpula at 410-891-0575.

FIELD TRIP Anne Arundel. Winter Gull Trip. Destination will be determined by the leader. Meet 8:00 a.m. in the Parole Plaza parking lot, on Riva Rd. side next to cemetery. For further information, contact the leader, Jim Stasz at 410-257-9540.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. "OWL-IT." 3:00-4:00 p.m. For further information and reservations, call the leader, Tom Valega, at 301-424-7289.

Sunday, January 23

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Habitat walk at Rockburn Park. One hour. Meet at 1:00 p.m. at the park office. For further information, contact the leader, Bob Solem, at 301-725-5037.

Monday, January 24

MEETING. Wicomico. "The Kings Currency: Dominance in Winter Tundra Swans" by Phil Creighton. 7:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, Salisbury.

Saturday, January 29

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Patuxent River Park. Look and listen for owls in this park. Meet 6:00 **p.m.** in the Parole Plaza parking lot, on Riva Rd. side next to cemetery. For further information, contact the leader, Barbara Ricciardi at 301-464-1962.

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FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. New Design Road and Lily Pons. Horned Larks, Lapland Longspurs, sparrows and hawks. Scopes recommended. Meet 8:00 a.m. at the Security Blvd Park & Ride lot. For further information, contact the leader, Leader: Jim Wilkinson at 410-381-9250.

Sunday, January 30

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Annapolis Neck. Winter birding and hot soup at the Fords. Meet at 12 noon at the Bay Ridge Shopping Center. For further information, contact the leaders, John and Helen Ford, at 410-267-8417.

FIELD TRIP. Wicomico. Ocean City to Cape Henlopen. All day. Meet 7:30 a.m. at the Asbury United Methodist Church, Salisbury. Leaders TBA. For further information, contact Charles Vaughn at 410- 742-7221.

HAVE YOU MOVED?

Have you changed your address since you last paid your MOS dues? If so, or if you are planning on moving, you should contact the MOS Mailing List Coordinator as soon as possible in order not to interrupt delivery of the *MD Yellowthroat* or *MD Birdlife*. Tell us now! Contact:

William Guion
Mailing List Coordinator
8007 Martown Road
Laurel, MD 20723
(301) 490-0444

ENJOY SPRING MIGRATION ON THE TEXAS UPPER COAST !

Join Phil and Barbara Davis, owners of the Wild Bird Center in Columbia, Maryland on a spring birding trip to the Upper Texas Coast. This will be the Davises' fifth trip to the Houston/Galveston/High Island area to what is one of the premier spring birding areas in the country. Shorebirds, waders and, particularly warblers are the specialty of this trip. Close to 200 species can be expected, including 25-30 species of warblers, as well as many varieties of tanagers, thrushes, buntings, vireos, orioles, many terns, plenty of shorebirds, all of the herons and egrets, Roseate Spoonbills, bitterns, rails, and many other great birds, both anticipated and unexpected.

The trip is being organized by Baltimore's Dietze & Renner, Travel Agents. Departure is from BWI Airport on Saturday April 23 and the return is on Thursday, April 28. If you are interested in experiencing the spectacle of spring migration "up-close and personal" call Clem Dietz at (410) 727-6868 for a detailed itinerary, a bird list, and cost information.

MOS Annual Meeting Weekend ! ! !

Sandy Cove Conference Center
North East, Maryland

May 20-22, 1994

An Event You Will Not Want to Miss

Look for More Details Inside
&
Watch Your Mailbox In November!

The copy deadline for the January/February issue of the Yellowthroat is December 5 for chapter activities and December 10 for all other submissions.

Send calendar entries for December and January to:

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H: 410-734-6969

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